

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 050967  
ORIGIN NEA-10

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY RABAT IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 050967

STADIS/////////////////  
FOR AMBASSADOR FROM VELIOTES

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: MASS, US, MO

SUBJECT: MOROCCAN ARMS REQUEST

REF: RABAT 1144

1. VERY MUCH APPRECIATE VIEWS IN REFTEL. WE HAVE DISCUSSED SUBJECT OF POSSIBLE PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE WITH PHIL HABIB AND HAVE DECIDED THAT WE SHOULD STICK WITH ORIGINAL IDEA OF MESSAGE FROM SECRETARY TO FM BOUCETTA. WE WERE INFLUENCED PRIMARILY BY FOLLOWING:

-- SUBJECT WAS INITIALLY RAISED BY LARAKI AND SUBSEQUENTLY BY BOUCETTA PERSONALLY WITH SECRETARY.

-- HASSAN HAS NOT RAISED SUBJECT WITH PRESIDENT AND, AS YOU RECALL, PM OSMAN AVOIDED SUBJECT DURING HIS DISCUSSION  
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WITH PRESIDENT IN DECEMBER.

-- FINALLY, WE ARE GENERALLY RELUCTANT TO ENGAGE PRESIDENT PERSONALLY IN CONVEYING UNPLEASANT NEWS.

2. WE WERE PUZZLED BY YOUR SUGGESTION THAT WE, IN ESSENCE, HANG A RESPONSE FROM THE PRESIDENT TO HASSAN'S LETTER OF

FEBRUARY 3 (STATE 36820). IT HAS BEEN GENERALLY INTER-

PRETED HERE PRIMARILY AS A COURTESY NON-SUBSTANTIVE NOTE. AS A RESULT WE HAVE NOT FOCUSSED ON THE NEED FOR A FORMAL REPLY. INDEED, WE HAVE ASSUMED THAT THE PRESIDENT SAID SOMETHING NICE TO SADAT WHICH WAS THEN COMMUNICATED BACK TO HASSAN BY THE EGYPTIANS. DO YOU HAVE ANY THOUGHTS ON THIS SUBJECT? IN PARTICULAR, ARE WE MISSING SOME OF THE PIECES?

3. AS CONCERNS THE HASSAN LETTER, THERE IS THE HINT RE THE POSSIBILITY OF EARLY RESCHEDULING OF HIS ABORTED VISIT. WE INTERPRET THIS AS A MORE OR LESS PRO FORMA POLITE STATEMENT GIVEN FACT HASSAN TOOK INITIATIVE AT LAST MINUTE TO CANCEL HIS VISIT. IF HASSAN IS SERIOUSLY THINKING ABOUT RESCHEDULING HIS VISIT, THIS WOULD RAISE MANY PROBLEMS HERE SINCE LARGE NUMBER OF VIP VISITS PREVIOUSLY SCHEDULED FOR THIS YEAR ARE BEING SLIPPED TO NEXT YEAR WITH USUAL QUOTA OF FOREIGN UNHAPPINESS OVER THIS DEVELOPMENT. IF THERE IS GOING TO BE ANY CHANCE AT ALL OF RESCHEDULING THIS VISIT IN THE COMING MONTHS, IT WOULD HAVE TO BE ON THE BASIS OF SOMETHING OTHER THAN SUBTLE INDIRECT HINTS IN BRIEF NOTES CARRIED BY FRIENDS TO THE PRESIDENT. EVEN THEN I WOULD NOT BE TOO OPTIMISTIC. WHAT IS PAST CANNOT BE UNDONE, BUT AS WE ARE BOTH AWARE HASSAN'S CANCELLATION OF THE VISIT WAS PRIMARY FACTOR  
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IN DILEMMA WE NOW FIND OURSELVES IN REGARDING MOROCCAN ARMS REQUEST. I HAVE MADE THIS POINT TO BENGELLOUN SEVERAL TIMES, MOST RECENTLY DURING OUR LAST CONVERSATION LAST WEEK, BUT I DON'T IMAGINE HE HAS EVER REPORTED THIS TO RABAT.

4. YOU HAVE RECEIVED OUR CABLES ABOUT THE GWERTZMAN STORY. WHEN IT RAINS, ETC. I WILL DO MY BEST TO MINIMIZE OUR PROBLEMS BEFORE THE HIRC, BUT GIVEN THE CAST OF CHARACTERS, IT WILL BE DIFFICULT. HANG ON, BETTER DAYS HAVE TO COME; VANCE

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Concepts:** ARMS, PROCUREMENT, INSTRUCTIONS, MILITARY SALES  
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**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
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